

10/22/

CONFIDENTIAL

FRP:

STATE ← BBC

ACTION: NONE INFO: ODPDS-S, RF, FILE, CR/E, D/FBIS-2, EUR-3,
IAD/CAS-3, NIO/WE, OCO/WE, ORPA/II-2, ORPA/WEN-2, (17/W)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 7965
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235475

JOINT STATE-ICA MESSAGE

E.O. 12065: GDS 9/5/85 (FUNSETH, ROBERT L.)

TAGS: SOPN, UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN BBC OVERSEAS BROADCASTING

REF: LONDON 16966

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT SHARE EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT BBC OVERSEAS BROADCASTING BROADLY SUPPORT U.S. INTERESTS. VOA AND BBC BROADCASTS IN SIGNIFICANT MEASURE COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER. SEVERE CUTBACKS IN BBC OVERSEAS PROGRAMMING WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR JOINT INTERESTS.
3. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR CONCERN SHOULD BE CONVEYED, BUT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SUGGEST INTERVENTION IN HMG DECISION-MAKING, PARTICULARLY SINCE FINAL JUDGMENT ON THE CUTBACKS HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. WE SUPPORT THE COURSE PROPOSED BY THE EMBASSY TO PLACE "POSSIBLE BBC OVERSEAS BROADCAST REDUCTIONS" ON THE AGENDA FOR THE VOA/BBC DISCUSSIONS. WE SHOULD STRESS, HOWEVER, OUR PURPOSE TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FCO/BBC PLANS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR VOA. THE MERE DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION IN THIS FORUM

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State Dept. review completed

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WILL ADEQUATELY PROJECT U.S. CONCERN AT THIS STAGE.
INFORMATION GAINED AT THE VOA/BBC MEETING WILL ALSO
HELP TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIONS U.S. MIGHT
TAKE WITH HMG. WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION WHETHER
SUBJECT MIGHT BE USEFULLY RAISED ON INFORMAL BASIS
WITH LEADING TORIES AND OTHERS. VANCE

END OF MESSAGE

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